

NCLB reporting requirements

Accountability vs. assessment: What's the difference?

No Child Left Behind requires school districts to publicly report accountability and assessment results. It also requires schools to provide individual student results to parents. These are three separate reporting requirements.

What's the difference between accountability and assessment? Both use achievement on the Dakota STEP or STEP-A as their basis. However, there are two major differences:

- 1) Accountability considers the achievement of students who meet the qualification of full academic year. Assessment considers the achievement of *all* students – regardless of whether they meet full academic year.
- 2) Accountability considers achievement in reading/language arts and math. Assessment looks at reading/language arts, math *and science*.

Accountability Report

The Accountability Report provides the public with information about student achievement on the Dakota STEP or Dakota STEP-A. It is based on the scores of students who were continuously enrolled in a single district from Oct. 1 to the last day of the testing window.

Adequate yearly progress, or AYP, determinations are based on the scores of only those students who make full academic year, as noted above.

The Accountability Report must include:

- A comparison of student achievement at the district level and each school level with the state's annual measurable objectives (or AMOs) in reading/language arts and math for the following student subgroups:
 1. all students
 2. ethnic groups
 3. students with disabilities
 4. students who are limited English proficient
 5. economically disadvantaged
 6. gender
 7. migrant students
- Information about the academic indicators the district uses for AYP determinations. The indicator for high school is graduation rate, and the indicator for elementary and middle schools is attendance. Academic indicator information must be reported for each of the student subgroups listed above.

- AYP information, including the number and name of each school district and school identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring under NCLB
- Percentage of classes not taught by “highly qualified teachers” and disaggregated information including:
 1. Highest quartile of poverty schools not having classes taught by highly qualified teachers; and
 2. Lowest quartile of poverty schools not having classes taught by highly qualified teachers.

The information needed to report accountability is available via the online State Report Card located at <https://sis.ddncampus.net:8081/nclb/index.html>.

PLEASE NOTE: The State Report Card has a “Teacher Qualifications” tab. For 2008, you will not find the district-level poverty quartile information there yet; it is currently marked “N/A.” We are waiting for guidance from the federal government regarding this requirement and will update you as soon as possible.

Assessment Report

The Assessment Report reflects the achievement of *all students* in a district or school – not just those who completed the full academic year. The Assessment Report must include Dakota STEP results in reading/language arts and math. Districts also are required to report their *science assessment data* as well. (This requirement began with data from the 2007-08 school year.)

The online State Report Card (URL noted above) has a tab entitled “Assessment Results.” This is NOT the “All Assessed” information and cannot be used to fulfill the Assessment Report requirements.

The Assessment Report must include the percentage of students tested and student achievement at each achievement level (advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic) for the following student subgroups:

1. all students
2. ethnic groups
3. students with disabilities
4. students who are limited English proficient
5. economically disadvantaged
6. gender
7. migrant students

Districts must also report the most recent two-year trend data in student achievement for each subject and grade.

PLEASE NOTE: Information for your district Assessment Report for 2008 should be available soon.

Individual student reports

Districts are required to provide individual student results on the Dakota STEP or STEP-A to parents. This information is available through the student information system (via Infinite Campus). This year, we have a new parent information piece that you may use to help parents understand what their child's test scores mean. You can find it at <http://doe.sd.gov/octa/assessment/dakSTEP/index.asp>. Click on "Dakota STEP Parent Fact Sheet."